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Subject: PSIO SITREP UPDATE #13 – 10 Feb 2022 – Freedom Convoy Solidarity Activity

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ONLY: SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS SITUATION DEVELOPS. INFORMATION MAY BE BASED ON UNCONFIRMED REPORTING.

UPDATE #13

DATE/TIME: February 10, 2022 @ 1700 hrs

PURPOSE: To provide aggregated situational awareness regarding "Freedom Convoy" solidarity activity impacting Alberta.

BACKGROUND: No change.

CURRENT STATUS:

Coutts Border Crossing

- As of 13:00 hrs Thu 10 Feb, RCMP/SHP report:
 - HWY 4 remained blocked at the COUTTS site.
 - Traffic being stopped at CP10 and CP14.
 - The mood remains stable. RCMP continue to engage identified leadership group.
 - COUTTS site:
 - NB: 21 semi-trucks, 1 personal veh, and 9 farm tractors
 - SB: 19 semi-trucks, 3 personal veh, and 9 farm tractors.
 - CP10:
 - 24 commercial vehicles, 60 RVs, approx 133 passenger vehs, and 9 farm tractors.
- Efforts continue to move participants off of HWY 4 to area for a legal protest owned by the Ministry of Transportation. This would enhance police and public safety. This area has been outfitted by a community group with free Wi-Fi to make it a more attractive option to shift the crowd away from the roadway. Attempt to relocate have been unsuccessful thus far.

- Sheriffs resources continue to be engaged to ensure checkpoints north of the CARWAY and DEL BONITA border crossings are active while the ports are open.
- CP Rail reported there have not been any disruption to train traffic. [they have dealt with some vehicles driving on the tracks]

Alberta Legislature / McDougall Centre

- At approx 10:00 hrs on Sat 12 Feb, Sheriff Operations will close the entrance to the government centre at:
 - 107 Street at 99 Avenue
 - 96 Avenue at 106 Street
 - Fortway Road at River Valley Road
- These road closures will be in place for Saturday; however, Sheriff Operations will assess if closures are needed on Sunday based on traffic and pedestrian traffic.
- The Sheriffs Branch, Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Edmonton Police Services will monitor and evaluate the situation throughout the weekend.
- Staff are being asked to enter and exit via RIVER VALLEY ROAD. If there is any issues or concern, call the Sheriffs dispatch line available 24 hours at 780-422-3787.

City of Edmonton & Environs

- The City of Edmonton is elevating their Emergency Command Center (EOC) for Sat 12 Feb in response to planned protests and is requesting support from AEMA POC.

City of Calgary & Environs

- No additional updates at this time.

Regional Municipalities / Rural

- No additional updates at this time.

Ottawa "Freedom Convoy 2022"

- No additional updates at this time.

Other Provinces / National

- On 10 Feb, the Canadian Trucking Alliance (CTA) and Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) sent a letter to the Prime Minister and all Premiers calling on the First Ministers to meet to develop an action plan to end and prevent blockades at all ports of entry in Canada to ensure the safety and security of our supply chains and economy.

International

- No updates at this time.

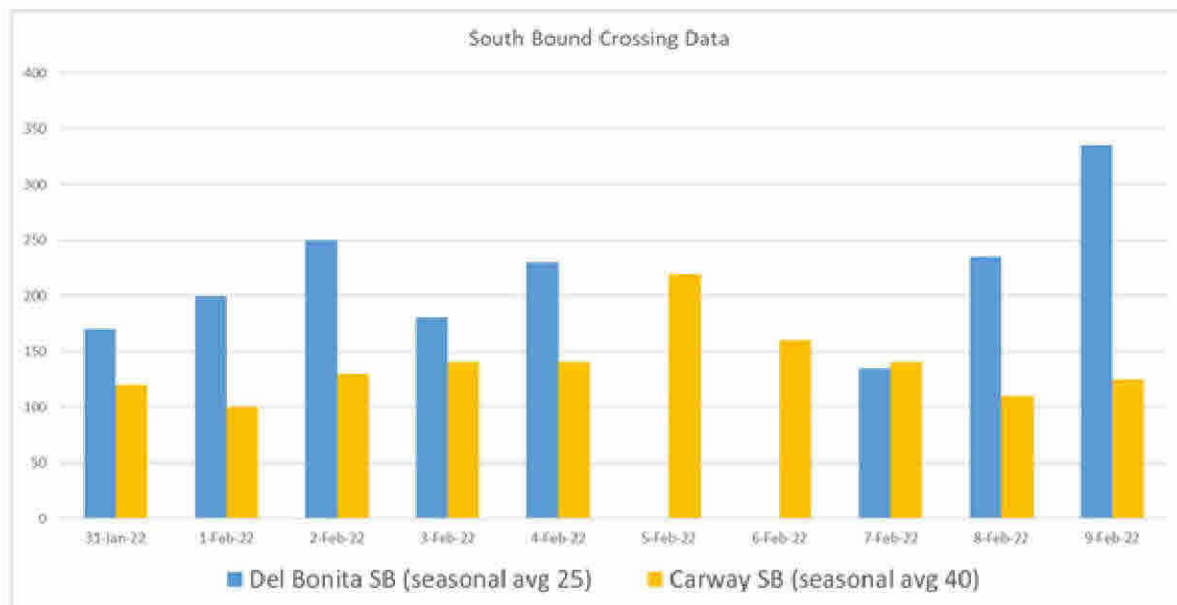
MINISTRY UPDATES:

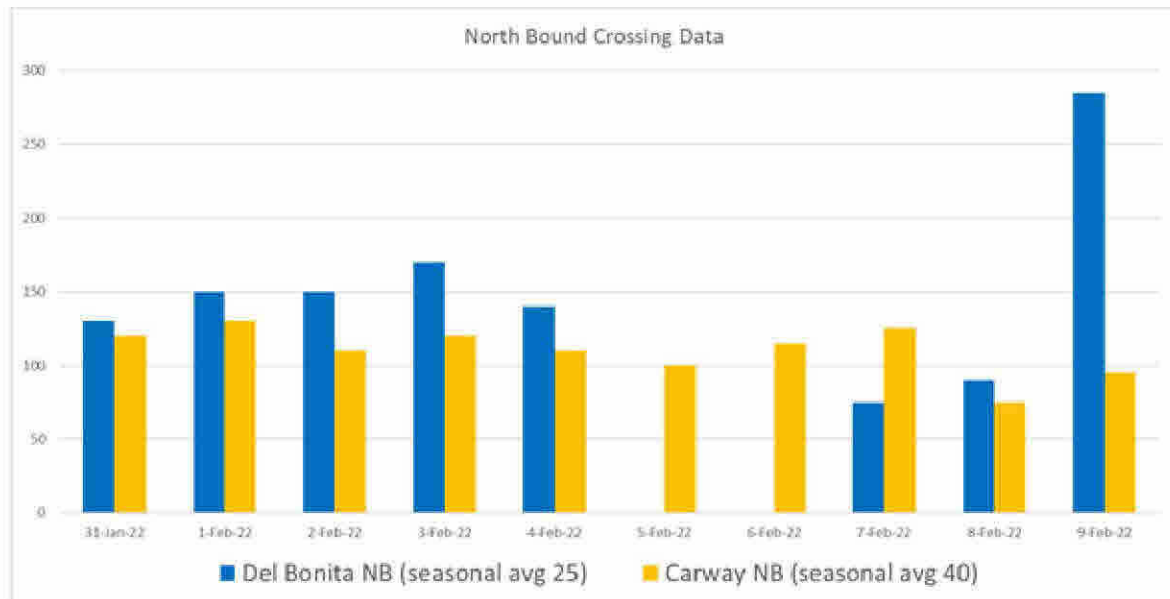
Justice & Solicitor General (JSG):

- JSG continues to support efforts to identify and secure heavy equipment and operators. [Towing companies continue to refuse to provide towing services to police at the blockade locations.]

Transportation (TRANS):

- As of 14:00 hrs 10 Feb, the department has confirmed that there continue to be no crossing delays at other ports.
- The airspace restrictions above MILK RIVER, AB and above COUTTS, AB has been extended until 16 Feb 2022.
- CBSA and US CBP ports at DEL BONITA have agreed to remain open until 22:00 hrs local time today (10 Feb).
- Some transportation companies are rerouting to the ROOSVILLE MT/GRASMERE BC port:
 - The CBSA hours of operation for commercial carriers are Monday to Friday, 8:30 – 16:30; for passenger vehicle travelers it is 24 hours / 7 days a week.
 - US CBP hours of operation for this port are 24 hours / 7 days a week for commercial carriers and passenger vehicle travelers.
 - This port has no capacity to perform livestock inspections.
 - Boxed meat is being accepted, however carriers have to route to SWEETGRASS for inspection.
- Department ADMs have provided their direct contact details to their NWT counterparts in the event something develops regarding unverified rumours of potential blockade in NWT. We have looped in our respective ADMs to remain connected and have flagged this to JSG who will raise with the RCMP. The Peace Region Operation Manager and the local MCI are aware of the potential situation. [On 9 Feb, the DM from NWT contacted Alberta Transportation DM indicating they have heard chatter over truckers' radios on the possibility of a protest blockade on the highway from Alberta into the NWT. These remain rumours only, and no indicators have been identified at this time that anyone is planning anything. However, Should this occur it would have serious impacts to NWT as diverting to another crossing would add significant time and delay.]
- CARWAY and DEL BONITA border crossing flow rates:





Municipal Affairs:

- The Provincial Operations Centre (POC) is elevating to Level II (approx. 10:00-18:00 hours).

Jobs, Economy, and Innovation (JEI):

- Business Council of Alberta (BCA):
 - Members from agriculture, manufacturing, sales, retail and real estate sectors are indicating disruptions because of the blockade.
 - Most impacts are to the agriculture sector in getting feed into Canada, getting beef to the U.S. and other agriculture product shipments.
 - Calgary and Edmonton manufacturers have indicated that they are facing challenges and delays getting materials (inputs) as well as shipping outbound completed product to the U.S.
 - BCA encourages the Government of Alberta to implement the critical infrastructure act and move to deal with the individuals who BCA feels have made their point and have now crossed into the territory of looking like extremists and are disrupting the economy and livelihoods.
- Canadian Federation of Independent Business:
 - Alberta members have not raised any issues concerning the Coutts border blockade. However, general supply chain challenges, not specific to the Coutts Border, continue to be a top concern for small businesses in Alberta and across the country.
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME):
 - On 8 Feb, CME launched their first member survey of 2022 focusing on supply chain issues affecting Canadian manufacturers, how companies are addressing issues, and potential solutions. The survey closes 18 Feb.
- Restaurants Canada:
 - Alberta members are indicating supply chain issues because of lingering impacts of highway closures due to flooding in British Columbia rather than the Coutts border blockade.

- Members have indicated supply chain shortages of certain products, such as fruits and vegetables, but indicated that this is not likely a result of the Coutts border blockade.
- Retail Council Canada:
 - RCC noted that the border crossing at Coutts is a vital supply route for Alberta retailers especially those who are focused on produce.
 - Retailers have expressed concern about supplies having been cut and having to explore other border crossings to allow “just-in-time” delivery.
 - Using alternative border crossing has added additional kilometres for truckers, which has meant additional transportation costs.
 - Given delays at Coutts border crossing, produce that has a limited shelf life has been wasted. The exact cost is not known at this time but data should be available next week.
- Tourism Industry Association of Alberta:
 - Members have not raised concerns about the Coutts border blockade to date.
- Beef Processing:
 - Beef processing experiencing supply challenges due to the border blockade.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Economic Development (AFRED):

- No additional updates at this time.

ASSESSMENT & STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS:

- The need for heavy equipment to clear the highway of vehicles still exists and will be critical for any enforcement action.
- Social media sentiment is shifting negative towards law enforcement.
- On 10 Feb, divisive anti-vax influencer Christopher SACCOCCIA (a.k.a. Chris Sky) signalled intent to bring supplies (incl. 1000L of diesel) to COUTTS area on Sat 12 Feb. [This has potential to act as a catalyst for radicalization and external support]

FORECAST:

- Additional border blockade’s in ON and MB, coupled with increased international attention, appears to be reinforcing willingness of hard-liners to continue convoy and blockade actions. Online affinity groups associated with ‘Freedom Convoy’ activities appear to be growing; however, it is unclear whether this increased virtual engagement will translate into physical participation. While significant organizing for weekend events (11-13 Feb) continues, some localized weekday events have been cancelled due to lack of interest.

PREPARED BY: Intelligence Bureau, Provincial Security & Intelligence Office (PSIO)

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